

**Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
2014 Congressional Arts Competition**

I am delighted to send my best wishes from Washington for the 2014 Congressional Art Competition. Thank you for participating in this terrific event to celebrate your artistic achievements. I am sorry I can't be with you today, but it is my pleasure to recognize the tremendous creativity and talent of this year's students.

I would like to salute the students and art teachers who are participating in this exciting competition. The Artistic Discovery Competition was established by Congress to support arts education in the country. This program is an opportunity to recognize and encourage artistic talent in our Congressional district, as well as throughout the country.

As a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I strongly believe that the arts can improve our daily lives. Art preserves our cultural heritage, strengthens the education system through innovative learning techniques and enhances civic engagement. Art provides students with new ways to learn and explore math and sciences and allows students to understand history and culture. That is why I am a strong proponent of maintaining robust funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities and also support other cultural and arts programs.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to our panel of esteemed judges; Han Dai-Yu, who is an Associate Professor in Studio Arts at Loyola Marymount University, Kim Kovacs, the Executive Director for Federal Relations at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Peter Demaria, member of the Manhattan Beach Cultural Arts Commission and Professor of Architecture at the CSULB (Cal State University Long Beach) School of Design.

I also want to thank the interns and staff at the Manhattan Beach Cultural Arts Center for helping my staff organize this wonderful event.

Finally, I wish to recognize the family members who have nurtured and cultivated their children's interest in the arts.

Congratulations again and I look forward to meeting the winner in Washington! Have a great event!